GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:285
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
STATUTORY POWERS TO RIVER BOARD ORGANISATION
DUMPA MARY VIJAYAKUMARI;KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given some statutory powers to the River Board Organisation in the management ofwater resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor;

(c) whether some State Governments have opposed this decision of the Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF STARRED QUESTION No.285 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 10.12.2001 REGARDING STATUTORY POWERS TO RIVER BOARD ORGANISATION

(a) to (d) The River Boards Act, 1956 provides for establishment of River Basin Organisation with advisoryrole in consultation with the concerned State Governments. No River Basin Organisation has been set up in the country under thisAct so far. However, Brahmaputra Board, Betwa River Board and Damodar ValleyCorporation under different Acts of Parliament; Bhakra Beas Management Board and Tungbhadra Board under State ReorganisationActs and Narmada Control Authorityunder Inter StateWater Disputes Act, 1956 have been set up as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Name	Constituted under Act/Law/Notification
1.	Damodar Valley Corporation	Damodar Valley Corporation Act No.XIV of 1948. The act received assent of Governor General on 27th March 1948.
2.	Bhakra Beas Management Board	Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966 Part VIII (Bhakra Nangal & Beas Project) and amended in 1976.
3.	Betwa River Board	Betwa River Board Act 1976 No.63 of 1976 10th April 1976.
4.	Brahmaputra Board	The Brahmaputra Board Act 1980 No.46 of 1980.
5.	Tungabhadra Board	Notification Constituting the Tungabhadra Board Board No. DW IV 4 (a) dt. 10.3. 1955 in pursuance of Sub Section (4) of Andhra State Act (30 of 1063)
6.	Narmada Control Authority	Constituted by a notification dated 10th September 1980 to give effect to the decision of NWDT award under Section 6-A of Inter State Water Dispute act, 1956.

The National Water Resources Council (NWRC)while deliberating the draft revised National Water Policy inits 4th Meeting held on 7th July, 2000 considered inter-alia the provision relating to setting up of River Basin Organisations (RBOs)with statutory powers. While some States supported this change some other States like Goa, HimachalPradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh opposed the settingup of RBOs with statutory powers. In view of the divergent views expressed on this, the NWRC directedthat a Working Group under the chairmanship of Union Minister ofWater Resources be constituted to examine the draft provisions. The Working Group discussed this issue and, arrived at a consensus, recommending to NWRC inter-alia that a provision on setting up of RBOs,without proposing the statutory / regulatory powers, be introduced in the revised National Water Policy.